

23rd June 2023

Wixams Academy



Newsletter

Greetings from the Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to this bumper Newsletter edition!

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to our wonderful Year 11s who left officially last Friday. It has been a privilege to see them grow up and I wish them the very best of luck with their GCSE results and their futures. I do hope many will return for a further two years in our sixth form. A very special thank you must go to Clare Mountain, Year 11's Head of Year. The time, dedication and, dare I say 'love' that Clare has put into this year group has been touching and amazing. We all thank you Mrs Mountain! More Prom photos to follow next week, no doubt!

We also have some strong examples of student and staff work in this Newsletter. Mrs Thompson showcases amazing student work in BTEC Food lessons. We congratulate students and thank Mrs Thompson for her hard work. The History and RE departments are leading on our successful selection to be a 'Holocaust Beacon School' by UCL (continuing our proud work with the 'Anne Frank Trust' over the years) and the History department is focussing on community links to the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the SS Windrush. More details in this newsletter.

The sixth form continues to thrive. The year 12s are beginning to focus on their UCAS applications next term and we look forward to welcoming our new sixth form applicants on the 10 & 11 of July for their induction days. Please note, these are new dates due to the impact of the strikes the week before.

The strikes will affect us on the 5th and 7th of July. I have written to you all separately this afternoon with our plans for those two days. Please read the letter carefully. Essentially, Year 10 and 12 work experience will continue that week as normal and we will have Year 9 **only** in the Academy on the 5th July and Year 7 **only** on the 7th July.

Thank you as always for your support,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul' followed by a stylized surname.

Paul Spyropoulos
Principal

Upcoming Dates

26-28 June	Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Students arrive at school at 715am on 26 th . Parents – please watch video link in Parentmail letter.
26 June	Yr 10 Wadham College, Oxford Trip
26 June	Yr 12 Geography AL trip
3-7 July	Work Experience week for all Year 10 and 12 students
3 July	Food trip to Spitalfields Market <u>cancelled</u>
5 July	Strike Day – only Year 9 and invited students on site (see separate letter)
7 July	Strike Day – only Year 7 and invited students on site (see separate letter)
10 & 11 July	Rearranged Sixth Form Induction Days for internal and external applicants

The poster features a large, stylized rainbow arrow pointing to the right, composed of multiple parallel bands of color: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, black, light blue, and pink. The text is overlaid on the right side of the arrow.

LGBTQ+ Pride Month Poetry Competition

**Write a poem, of any kind,
around the theme of Pride
and submit it to Miss
Gosling in E3 by June 30th
for a chance to win!**

Year 11-Leavers Afternoon



What a lovely afternoon we had last week celebrating our Year 11. It truly was a lovely day and even thinking back to it now puts a smile on my face! We had the traditional shirt signing, some time on the field where we listened to music, danced, ate ice cream, had one last game of football, shared old memories and made new memories. The day finished with one last very emotional assembly where we laughed, cried and shared memories from over the years this included staff speeches and some entertaining staff videos, we celebrated achievements and finally wished them all luck. The whole year group really did us proud and it certainly was a special day that I personally will never forget. As I write this my brain is in overdrive hoping that I have remembered everything for Prom tonight which I am certain is also going to create some forever lasting memories! During next week I will collate all prom photos and find a way of sharing them with you all so that you also have some memories of the night. Year 11 you truly have been amazing! Good luck and I will miss you all. ***Mrs Mountain.***





Btec Home Cooking Skills level 1 and 2 final Assessment.

Well done to all of the Btec Home Cooking skills students who completed their final assessments in March and April. They all did themselves proud, as I knew they would! We now look forward to you receiving your results.

Now I have to say a very sad (yes I did cry) farewell to my Year 11 Btec HCS Level 2 group, I will leave you with photos of the fantastic dishes they completed for their assessment. It has been a wonderful three years and we have learnt so much together. It is no exaggeration to say they reignited my love of teaching. I couldn't be prouder of them or what they have achieved! All the best for your future endeavours. See you at prom!



Well done to all of the students who entered the Tunnock's Teacake Challenge 2023! The entries were spectacular and they all did themselves proud. They had to present a Tunnock's Teacake like a high-end dessert, incorporating the theme. The theme this year was shapes and patterns.



Congratulations go to Myles Endersby and Jack Tilley. They won the in school competition and their entries have been submitted to the national competition. Myles has been entered into the most novel category and Jack has been entered for the over 14s category.



Further commendations go to Ramone Edmunds for exquisite presentation, Luke Plater for using a wide variety of finishing techniques, Joe Birkin for creativity and sustainability and Kayden Ahmed-Hornsby for experimenting with sugar work. Congratulations to all of you.



Mrs Thompson

Food Technology Teacher

UCAS DISCOVERY EXHIBITION



On Tuesday, Year 12 students visited the University of Bedfordshire for the annual UCAS Discovery Exhibition.

Students had the opportunity to meet over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship employers face-to-face.

The students were outstanding and got involved straight away! They engaged in several activities including listening to live expert talks, attending subject-specific workshops and seminars as well as speaking to university representatives.

Students found the event insightful and felt confident that they received the latest advice and information on different career choices. They were also very pleased with the amount of freebies they were able to collect!

Ms S Rahman

Assistant Head of VI





This week marks 75 years since the arrival of the SS Windrush to Britain. On 22nd June 1948 just over a thousand West Indians arrived in London to make a new life for themselves. After the devastation of the Second World War citizens from around the British Empire were invited to live, work and settle. This 'Windrush Generation' not only helped post-war recovery, but also paved the way for our modern multicultural and inclusive society.

Sadly, the Windrush Generation – defined as anyone who immigrated to Britain from the West Caribbean between 1948-71 – faced many problems, mainly due to a lack of organisation by various governments to manage the settlement of new arrivals, and the slow response in tackling racism in Britain's institutions and wider society.

Please click [HERE](#) to read a very informative article from the BBC about the Windrush Generation.

In this important anniversary year the History Department at Wixams plan to deliver a series of assemblies during October (Black History Month) to tell some of the stories behind the Windrush Generation and raise awareness of their contribution to Britain's way of life – we would really like to hear from anyone in our school community who has links to the Windrush Generation!

If you a descendant of the Windrush Generation and would like to share your family's story to the Wixams Community then please click [HERE](#) to leave your contact details.

Mr Craze, Miss Adesina, Miss Higgitt and Mr Roberts
The History Department

The UCL logo, featuring a white building icon inside a black square, followed by the letters 'UCL' in a large, bold, white font.

BEACON SCHOOL IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION 2023 – 2024

We are pleased to announce that Wixams Academy has been selected by University College London to be one of 21 national Beacon Schools for Holocaust Education.

Over the next 18 months our staff and students will work with UCL to review and update our teaching and learning about the Holocaust. By December 2024 we will be fully accredited to coach other schools in the Bedfordshire area to also update their teaching methods about this significant event.



Holocaust Education
@UCL_Holocaust

We are pleased to announce @wixamsacademy, who accepted the offer of a place among our 21 strong [#BeaconSchool2324](#) cohort & we look forward to working with History & RE middle leaders, Academy colleagues & SLT on this important work. [#BCAT](#) 4/4

Over the next few months we will release more details about our plans, but we would like to invite you - as parents and members of the Wixams community - to be involved in the initial fact-finding stage by completing the survey found below.

Mr Craze (rcraze@wixamsacademy.co.uk) and **Mrs Loynes** (nloynes@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

Joint Leads UCL Beacon School Status

To complete the survey please click [HERE](#) (or zap the QR code). This survey will take between 10-15 minutes and will also be taken by students during Tuesday's Prep. It will help to form a baseline of what the Wixams Community already knows about the Holocaust.

Thank you in advance for your time!



Year 9 & 10 History Revision Guides



We have been fortunate to receive a special discounted rate on a complete set of GCSE History revision guides for £12.60 (RRP £25.20).

Please register your interest [HERE](#) by 9am Monday 10th July.

We will then look to place an order and send you a link to ParentPay.

Our current Year 11s found the guides very useful and we do look to make good use of them in fortnightly 'Booster Sessions' where we revisit topics and apply knowledge to exam questions.

*Your son/daughter **will not be disadvantaged** should they not purchase them, but it's useful to have a set at home for personal study.*

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mr Craze (rcraze@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

Head of History